



Re: Governors Budget
Eliminating Independent Living Centers
February 14, 2017

Good afternoon, thank you in advance for giving me your undivided attention. My name is Donald James, I'm 66, a register voter and a tax payer.

I'm here today to talk about the Governor Malloy's budget and the fact that he proposes to eliminate funds to the 5 Independent Living Centers (ILC). The ILCs are the foundation for the safety net which people with disabilities depend on.

I needed help while I found myself living in a homeless shelter for six weeks. Independence Unlimited helped me fill out rental applications and provide moral support during a difficult time in my life. While working for the Bureau of Rehabilitation, I depended on all 5 ILCs services as I was working with consumers to be more independent and preparing them to work with their councilors.

By not providing the money that the ILCs depends on to run the programs that support their consumers not only prevent our consumers the needed support but will cost the state more in man power and/or institutional placement.

If the funding for these centers is restored, it will only send a message to our community that our safety and our lives are NOT important!

Sincerely,

Donald James